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ELKHORN, NEBRASKA
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PASTOR MARK FRY

1 PASTOR MARK FRY: We have been looking the last few
2 weeks at some of the fishing stories in the Bible, which is
3 near and dear to me.

4 I have a vested interest in this. I'm a frustrated
5 fisherman that wants to go more than I can.

6 But it has been fun for me some to look at some of
7 these different stories in the Bible.

8 And the context of that is not only evangelism, but
9 fishing the living water.

10 We have got this amazing gift that God has given
11 us, salvation, and we need to go fishing with that a little
12 bit and I'm going with a little bit of the lure of the
13 challenge this week.

14 I need to tell you, this is really a tough Bible
15 story.

16 We are going to get to it in a second, but what I
17 want to do is I want to set the context a little bit.

18 I've got a little daily planner that has a cartoon
19 of the day and then I've got a little book that has all
20 kinds of quotes from fishing.

21 And this first one I think is really where I want
22 to end up. After we get started we will hopefully end here,
23 but this is by Thomas Fuller, he says, "The best fish swim
24 deep."

25 And I think that is true also of Christians. There

1 is a depth required.

2 Our church has grown. God has blessed us and we've
3 gotten wider, but we need to also get deeper and the best
4 fish swim deep.

5 That's where the water is the best, it's the
6 coolest, the crispest, the most energetic.

7 So I throw that quote out to hopefully get you
8 there.

9 And, secondly, from John Trotwood Moore, he says,
10 "Only the game fish swim upstream."

11 I was raised on the Cedar River over in Iowa and
12 there is not a whole lot of game fish in that river.

13 There used to be and then there weren't and now
14 there are more.

15 They are doing some things ecologically to raise
16 the quality of that water.

17 When I was a kid we were fortunate if we caught
18 carp, and carp are not game fish. They are known as rough
19 fish.

20 Game fish are those prized fish. Again, they have
21 a depth to them, and so I believe that's also true of the
22 Christian walk.

23 The game fish swim upstream. They just don't go
24 with the flow and go with the current.

25 They swim against popular opinion and those things

1 that would draw us away from the cross of Christ.

2 That's the anchor holding. It's going upstream.
3 When the storms are there we still can withstand those
4 challenges.

5 And so I want to go there, and I want to end up
6 with the depth and with the swimming upstream, because
7 today's is a very deep story.

8 It's a very deep story and it goes against the
9 current a little bit of what Jesus is teaching about not
10 only the life of faith, but also stewardship in the life of
11 faith.

12 It's a challenging story and if we had the time I
13 would walk you through the Lutheran Book of Worship.

14 They've got a thing in the front of that that has
15 sort of the three year lectionary and so each week they have
16 got an Old Testament, a Psalm, and a New Testament and a
17 Gospel reading for three years.

18 So basically the whole New Testament gets read on
19 one weekend or another.

20 But the church fathers avoided this text. So it's
21 kind of interesting, because we have got some resources that
22 give some ideas and some background and some historical
23 context of Bible stories and what was going on at that time.

24 On this one there is a very slim amount of research
25 ever done on it because it was a challenging text and I

1 think the church fathers said we aren't going there.

2 This business of this one fish being caught and him
3 having a coin, I mean, come on. We better leave that one
4 alone.

5 But we not going to leave it alone today. We are
6 going to look at it.

7 I mentioned I was raised on the Cedar River over in
8 Iowa. I was blessed as a kid. I was from the old small
9 town America.

10 I had the privilege of having both sets of
11 grandparents right in that same town.

12 My grandfather farmed outside of town a little bit
13 and my other grandfather was the funeral director in that
14 town.

15 So I was really fortunate. I had these two sets of
16 grandparents and I had two grandfathers that took me
17 fishing.

18 The one who was the funeral director, he was the
19 one, man, you be quiet and if the fish aren't biting it's
20 your fault. You know, you sit there for hours and love it.

21 My other grandfather was a very creative sort. He
22 wore bib overalls I think every day of his life and if the
23 fish weren't biting you either moved or you went in and had
24 something cool to drink or you went off somewhere.

25 My grandfather who was the farmer, he taught me to

1 chum the hole.

2 If you are a fisherman you know what this means and
3 if you are a fisherman you also know it's illegal to do.

4 But when you chum the hole, we used to do this over
5 in the Cedar River in Iowa, he was a farmer, so he had the
6 best sweet corn in Iowa, I believe that.

7 My grandfather had the green thumb and he would
8 save up the sweet corn and when it would get a little bit
9 rancid he would put it off the ears and put it in a five
10 gallon pale, and he's in his early 70s, and I'm about ten or
11 eleven, and he and I would go fishing, but we would go the
12 day before and we would chum the hole.

13 He would tie a rope around my waist and I would go
14 out about ten feet off the shore in the Cedar River and I
15 would take the corn and I would scatter it into the water.

16 Unbeknownst to me it's totally illegal and
17 absolutely against the law.

18 And my grandfather, if the current would have taken
19 me, he wouldn't have stopped it.

20 He's 70, he had both hips replaced, bad knees, the
21 whole deal, but, "Go ahead, Mark, trust me, this is okay."

22 (Laughter)

23 We would go back the next day and would we catch
24 carp.

25 I mean, we would use corn that next day, and my

1 grandfather fished with two poles at the same time, likewise
2 illegal.

3 (Laughter)

4 Oftentimes he would have his foot on one that was
5 going and he would be reeling in another one, and it was a
6 real joy to see him on this five gallon pale trying to bring
7 in two fish at the same time.

8 I set that stage as we need to chum the hole a
9 little bit. We need to get a little bit ready for the fish.

10 And the way I'm chumming the hole today is I'm
11 using an old song, and to prove how old it is I have the
12 vinyl of it, it's an old Bob Marley song, bought this over
13 at the recycled record store for \$1.99. I'm one of the few
14 guys that still has a turntable.

15 But if you subscribe to Rolling Stone magazine, and
16 I have for the last several years, twenty years probably,
17 the cover article this week is on Bob Marley.

18 It was 25 years ago he died. His music changed the
19 world.

20 And one of his songs Brad has ready to go, but I
21 want to chum the hole with this song.

22 It's called "Satisfy My Soul". But listen to what
23 he says in the opening part of this song.

24

25

1 "Oh, please, don't you rock my boat
2 Cause I don't want my boat to be rocking
3 Oh, please, don't you rock my boat
4 Cause I don't want my boat to be rocking
5 I'm telling you that, oh, oh, oh
6 So Keep it steady like this
7 I like it like this.
8 You should know -- you should know by now
9 I like it, I like it like this."

10

11 I like it like this. I believe that a lot of
12 people don't swim against the stream and they don't have a
13 depth of faith because they refuse to let their boat be
14 rocked.

15 You should know by now, I like it like this.

16 They keep the Savior at a safe distance. Your job
17 is to keep it steady, but not to rock the boat, so, you
18 know, hey, I like it like this. Don't be rocking my boat.
19 You should by now.

20 I want to rock your boat a little bit today, and I
21 think that is something that we just need to be honest with
22 as we read about Jesus and what he does in the New
23 Testament.

24 It is constant that change and challenge are often
25 difficult choices and those of us that are citizens of

1 Elkhorn, we have got some challenges right now with this
2 whole annexation thing.

3 And I'm not coming down as a hardliner or anything,
4 but it is difficult to change.

5 And there are financial things that kick in there,
6 but change and challenge are difficult choices.

7 And there are a lot of us that are saying don't be
8 rocking my boat, and especially in the church.

9 This is the one place that is not supposed to
10 change, so don't be rocking my boat.

11 But we need to remember that's exactly what the
12 religious leaders thought in Jesus' day, is the church
13 doesn't change.

14 When it comes to religious leaders they especially
15 don't like to have their boats rocked.

16 But one doesn't come to change and challenge
17 without making difficult choices.

18 Bottom line, Jesus rocks boats, he jars preserves,
19 he satisfies souls.

20 But not only does Jesus comfort the afflicted, but
21 he also afflicts the comfortable, and that sometimes, often
22 times, is those of us that are in the boat.

23 And so that is the context I want to go through
24 today and I want to show you that in the story of Matthew.

25 If you have your Bible there, if you bring your

1 own, fabulous, because you can highlight and write in it and
2 make yourself notes and put dates there of this is what I
3 discovered on this day in my spiritual journey.

4 But if you didn't bring your own we have them
5 provided for you.

6 Take a look at Matthew's gospel and I'm going to
7 set the stage a little bit for you because you need to
8 understand what is going on.

9 If you look at Matthew 16 you'll understand a
10 little bit more clearly what is going on in Matthew 17.

11 In Matthew 16, literally Verse 16, Simon Peter
12 answers, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

13 Peter has just come to a conclusion that Jesus is
14 what he says he is.

15 And so what Jesus does then is he promotes Peter to
16 the head of the class.

17 He says in Verse 18, "I tell you, you are Peter and
18 on this rock I will build my church. The gates of Hades
19 will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of
20 the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be
21 bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed
22 in heaven."

23 In other words, Peter, right on, I am who you say I
24 am.

25 What happens next is kind of interesting, because

1 then Jesus all of a sudden starts rocking their boats again.

2 We see right across in Verse 24, "Jesus told his
3 disciples, if any want to become my followers," notice he
4 doesn't say if you want to be my follower, if you want to
5 become, it's a process.

6 I believe it's a process of having your boat rocked
7 over and over and over.

8 "If you want to become my followers, let them deny
9 themselves, take up their cross and follow me. For those
10 who want to save their life will lose it; those who lose
11 their life for my sake will find it. For what will it
12 profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their
13 life, or what will they give in return for their life?"

14 Those are tough verses. It's not as you thought it
15 was. We are going to dump the boat over in some ways and we
16 are going to make this thing, it's not about leading; it's
17 about following.

18 It's about giving, instead of receiving, and he's
19 challenging their very core.

20 What happens then in the 17th Chapter is he takes
21 them on a mountain top experience.

22 He takes Peter and James and John up to the
23 mountain, and the old are left behind, Moses and Elijah, and
24 now it's just Jesus there and they are like whoa, this is
25 unbelievable, this is awesome.

1 "This is my son, listen to him," the voice says
2 from heaven.

3 They come down from the mountain top experience, in
4 16, Verse 14 and following, they then come to this crowd and
5 there is a guy who has something wrong with him.

6 There is an epileptic there that the disciples are
7 told to cure, unsuccessful, in curing him.

8 So what happens is really kind of fascinating then.
9 Notice what happens.

10 Jesus says in Chapter 17, down there at Verse 17,
11 "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must
12 I put up with you? How much longer must I be with you?
13 Bring him here to me."

14 So what he's doing is he's rocking their boats.
15 And then it's interesting because in Verse 22 they are
16 gathering in Galilee and he starts talking about death in
17 Verse 23 and he says, "They will kill him, the Son of man,
18 and the third day he'll be raised up and they were greatly
19 distressed."

20 That's what it feels like to have your boat rocked.
21 Especially church people don't like to have their boats
22 rocked.

23 And I want to jump in there, that's where the story
24 now is going to take place.

25 And so what Jesus is going to do, he's going to

1 teach this fascinating story then of what is going to be
2 happening and, of course, when money is involved it does
3 rock boats.

4 And so look with me at what we read. Verse 24.

5 "When they reached Capernaum the collectors of the temple
6 tax came to Peter."

7 Why did they go to Peter? I just tried to explain
8 that to you.

9 He's the one that has been promoted to the head of
10 the class.

11 He's the rock. He's going to give a solid answer,
12 and so they go to Peter and look at the interesting
13 question.

14 They are the collectors of the temple tax and they
15 say, "Does your teacher not pay the temple tax?"

16 In other words, does Jesus pay the tax or not? And
17 Peter, he says, well, of course he does. Yes, he does.

18 And when he came home Jesus spoke of it first.
19 Peter comes back home and Jesus must have sensed Peter has
20 been asked an interesting question, I better give him a
21 little bit more information here, and I better push him a
22 little bit, I better rock his boat a little further.

23 He says, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do
24 kings of the earth take toll or tribute? From their
25 children or from others?"

1 It's an A or B answer. It's kind of hard for us
2 because we don't live in a kingdom, but what he's talking
3 about here is if you are a king, do you get your tribute and
4 your toll from your own family members or from others?

5 And Peter answers correctly. Notice what he says.
6 He says, "From others."

7 Jesus said to him, "Then the children are free,"
8 and he means literally free.

9 He means spiritually free. He means financially
10 free.

11 If you are a child of the king, you don't have to
12 pay for it. You don't have to pay taxes.

13 You don't buy God's privilege and favor. They are
14 free. They are taken care of.

15 Then he tells this fascinating story about a fish.
16 He says, "However, so that we don't give offense to them,"
17 them being the temple tax collectors, he says, "Go to the
18 sea, cast a hook, take the first fish that comes up and when
19 you open its mouth you will find a coin. Take that and give
20 it to them for you and for me."

21 If you really good eyesight you can notice the
22 footnotes in your Bible, but you don't have to be able to
23 read those for me to be able to explain kind of another
24 interesting twist of what is going on.

25 Right away in Verse 24, when they asked, talking

1 about the temple tax, does your teacher pay the temple tax,
2 think for a moment if you can see, that is a specific
3 amount.

4 Let's say it's ten dollars. Does Jesus pay his
5 fair share of the ten bucks? He says, well, sure he does.

6 Then what happens at the end of the story when
7 Jesus says, "Go to the sea, cast a hook, the fish that comes
8 up, when you open its mouth you will find a coin."

9 The coin there is worth twice as much as the temple
10 tax. It's worth twenty dollars, figuratively.

11 It's worth a heck of a lot more than that, but for
12 sake of simplicity.

13 In other words, what Jesus is teaching the
14 disciples and he's teaching us is he says to Peter, he says,
15 in other words, this is going to cover both you and me.
16 This one is on me. I got the check.

17 The extravagance and the generosity of Jesus, he
18 doesn't just say I'll just go get one for myself, he doubles
19 and so therefore Peter and the church are with Jesus and he
20 says to you and me, you are free, this one is on me, I've
21 paid what the law demands.

22 You are free, you are paid for, and the children of
23 God are different than the citizens.

24 They are different. They don't have to pay and
25 that is the biggest misconception about offerings, is that

1 it's a tax, it's a bill.

2 "Well, I better put my ten bucks in, because it
3 covers me."

4 What Jesus is saying is nothing could be further
5 from the truth. I've got you covered. I've got you
6 covered.

7 And so it's interesting because then he kind of
8 plays on this citizenship business.

9 The challenge for the sons and daughters of the
10 kingdom is to learn how to live like we are free, instead of
11 taxed, and here is the bottom line.

12 Dual citizenship, being a citizen of heaven and a
13 citizen of the United States of America or whatever country,
14 it's a challenge.

15 Dual citizenship rocks a few boats, too. How can
16 you be an American and a Christian, how can you be a
17 Republican or Democrat Christian, it rocks boats, it's a
18 constant challenge for those of us that want to be civically
19 minded, but notice Jesus doesn't quit paying the tax, but he
20 also doesn't say you owe me.

21 I've got you covered. You are free. So act like
22 it and live like it and give like it instead of thinking,
23 "Oh, no, here comes the offering."

24 That's not what he's talking about. In fact, it's
25 just the opposite of that.

1 There is a great verse in Ephesians 2:19. "So you
2 are no longer strangers and aliens, you are citizens with
3 the saints and also members of the household of God."

4 You are children now. You are paid for. You are
5 bought, signed, sealed and delivered to the kingdom.

6 You are in, Paul is writing to the saints in
7 Ephesus.

8 And some people have this misnomer of I better give
9 my offering because God needs my money.

10 God doesn't need our money; we need to give our
11 money to God. It's not for God; it's for us.

12 It's part of the whole part and parcel of being out
13 of the boat.

14 And I can point you to dozens of people who finally
15 took a step towards tithing and the next thing is they got a
16 huge predicament with their automobile.

17 And they start thinking, "Oh, I thought I paid for
18 this. God was going to cover me."

19 It doesn't work that way. In fact, sometimes the
20 opposite.

21 When we reach out in faith, sometimes it's going to
22 get stormy.

23 But we need to understand it's not just about
24 keeping steady, we like it like this; it's God reaching into
25 our hearts and taking us into the future.

1 It's about growth. It's about getting out of our
2 boat.

3 There is a story, I searched on the internet
4 because one of the resources that was about this story
5 talked about a Greek scholar.

6 His name was Polycrates, and I don't know if you
7 have ever heard of this guy, but I hadn't.

8 But he was around there is this poem he wrote, it's
9 called the "Ring of Polycrates of Samos".

10 It's written between 540 and 522 B.C.E, and that
11 stands Before the Christian Era.

12 In case you don't know, we don't do B.C. anymore,
13 they kind of do B.C.E, Before the Christian Era. Bottom
14 line, this is five centuries before Jesus.

15 The translation I've got was translated in the
16 1800s by Friedrich Schiller.

17 And if you are a German person, I love Germany, and
18 Friedrich Schiller was one of the great students of all
19 time.

20 His teacher was Goethe, who arguably is the
21 smartest man who has ever lived on the face of this earth.

22 If you go to Germany you are going to see all kinds
23 of Goethe stuff, it's spelled, G-O-E-T-H-E, and he's the
24 real deal.

25 He's like the German Shakespeare. He was a

1 botanist. He was a musician, he was a physicist, he was a
2 doctor, he was an attorney, and in his spare time he wrote
3 poetry. Brilliant man.

4 His number one partner and student was Friedrich
5 Schiller.

6 He translated the "Ring of Polycrates" in about
7 1800 into German and now it has been translated into
8 English.

9 And I'm no poet, and I know it, so here's just a
10 paragraph of this so that you get kind an idea of what Jesus
11 was taking about.

12 But, again, this is five hundred years before the
13 time of Christ.

14 This is not going to rhyme, because I'm not very
15 good this.

16

17 "Then speaks the other, moved by fear;

18 This ring to me is far most dear.

19 Of all this aisle within it in knows

20 I to the furies pledge it now,

21 If they will happiness allow

22 And in the flood the gem he throws."

23

24 What is happening is the king has just thrown his
25 golden ring into the ocean.

1

2

"And with the morrow's earliest light

3

Appeared before the monarch's sight

4

A fisherman, all joyously

5

Lord, I this fish just now have caught

6

No net before ever held the sort

7

And as a gift I bring it to thee. "

8

9

He threw the ring in, a fish caught it, and the guy

10

caught the fish.

11

12

"The fish was opened by the cook,

13

Who suddenly, with wondering look,

14

Runs up and utters these glad sounds.

15

Within the fish's mouth, behold,

16

I've found, great lord, thy ring of gold.

17

Thy fortune truly knows no bounds."

18

19

This was a story that was in the culture, and the

20

bottom line of that story is the king's fortune knows no

21

bounds.

22

When he throws it away it comes back to him in a

23

miraculous way.

24

He takes his favorite ring, throws it into the

25

ocean, a fish catches it, the guy catches the fish, brings

1 it in, the cook is gutting the fish, and there is the guy's
2 ring. What are the odds?

3 That's the story Jesus is telling five hundred
4 years later, with a slightly different conclusion, "Thy
5 fortune surely knows no bounds."

6 What Jesus is saying is my grace knows no bounds.
7 What are the odds?

8 Notice when he tells Peter to go fishing, he
9 doesn't even tell him to use a net, just a single hook.

10 And he does, catches this fish, it's going to
11 happen.

12 That's casting. That's trusting. That's reaching
13 out. What are the odds?

14 We always try to say that if God had a refrigerator
15 your picture would be on it.

16 Me? Yes, you. You are the precious coin of God's
17 grace. He gives away kingdoms just for you.

18 What are the odds?

19 Well, he doesn't know where I've been. He doesn't
20 know how many times I have sank. He doesn't know the
21 baggage I carry.

22 Yes, he does. That's another beautiful thing of
23 it.

24 This is Peter, recall, and if we had time we would
25 like at Matthew 26, he's the guy who will deny Jesus three

1 times.

2 But he's still a fisherman. He's still the guy who
3 tried to walk on water, the 16th Chapter. Fascinating
4 story. Great story.

5 And so we ask the question, what is the lure? What
6 is the lure? What is the attraction?

7 I have my fishing lures and tackle book here. It
8 has all kind of antique fisherman stuff that is worth a
9 whole bunch of money.

10 Then I have my new one, the new Cabela's catalog,
11 which is the bible for many of us.

12 Secondly, of course, to the word of God, the
13 word of Cabela's.

14 But if you look in this it has all these different
15 lures in it.

16 Page upon page of these colorful, beautiful lures.
17 We have got these crank baits and floating baits and all
18 this different stuff here, the new Reef Runner, the new
19 Mr. Frogs, the new Johnsons, the new spoons that we have all
20 bought too many off, all these spinners, all these different
21 worms, all the different hooks.

22 And then back towards the back they have got a new
23 object on the market.

24 A guy at 7:45 says, "I've tried it and it doesn't
25 work."

1 And I said, "Okay, that's great, I'll feed that to
2 the next congregation."

3 On this page, page 151, they've got what is called
4 Pro Cure Bait Sauce. "Everything that big fish eat,
5 including whole ground up shrimp, shad, smelt, bait fish
6 oils and powerful bite stimulants are in this powerful
7 dressing. Just flip the top and squeeze it onto your
8 favorite lure, this no mess approach to live as well as
9 prepared baits, size, eight ounces. Flavors, shrimp, smelt,
10 trophy, trout," the whole nine yards.

11 But where am I going with that? The smell matters,
12 and one of the things that we try to talk about as a church
13 is our body odor.

14 That's why we do this fragrances thing, but what is
15 the attraction?

16 People are not going to be attracted to Christ
17 through you if all you do are just a naysayer and a negative
18 person and just kind of a sour pus.

19 And that's what I hope comes out of this whole
20 annexation thing, is I hope all of Omaha, all of Nebraska,
21 sees the dignity and integrity with which this whole thing
22 is wrestled.

23 Because I can tell you from living in this
24 community for 17 years there are people here that are not
25 against progress, growth, and change as evidenced by this

1 room we are in.

2 And the media is acting like little Elkhorn is
3 like Mayberry, they got policemen that put notes on the
4 windshield.

5 Yes, that happened to me, my garage door was open
6 and God bless Roy Scott, he's a member of our church, he
7 checked.

8 That's care, that's love, and I'm not saying if
9 Omaha annexes Elkhorn any of that goes away.

10 But I don't like the assumption that people are
11 against growth and progress.

12 But we have to also look at that as Christians
13 because are we for progress and growth and depth and
14 swimming upstream in our faith?

15 Well, don't rock my boat. It's going to be a tax
16 issue. Again money gets in there.

17 So let's embrace that and let's work within that.
18 That's the lure, because putting faith into action is
19 swimming upstream, it's going deeper, not just wider, it's
20 getting out of the boat.

21 You life is a sermon, and oftentimes your face is
22 the only sermon someone is ever going to see or hear and
23 that's what fishing is about.

24 It's attraction; it's not distraction. It's
25 attracting people to the kingdom.

1 I end today with another song, this is an oldy,
2 this is from 1971, and I hate just using old songs, but they
3 are more my hear language.

4 This is a song by Jackson Browne, and please put
5 his politics aside if you don't like his politics.

6 Again, he's a gift, I believe he has some things to
7 say. So Brad is going to play this. It's called "Rock Me
8 On The Water".

9

10 "Oh people, look among you
11 It's there your hope must lie
12 There's a sea bird above you
13 Gliding in one place like Jesus in the sky
14 We all must do the best we can
15 And then hang on to that gospel plow
16 When my life is over
17 I'm going to stand before the father
18 But the sisters of the sun are
19 Going to rock me on the water now.

20

21 Rock me on the water
22 Sister will you soothe my fevered brow
23 Rock me on the water, maybe I'll remember
24 Maybe I'll remember how
25 Rock me on the water

1 The wind is with me now
2 So rock me on the water
3 I'll get down to the sea somehow"

4
5 Notice the wind is with me now. It's not against
6 me.

7 When Peter started to doubt the wind was against
8 him and then he started to sink.

9 We need to remember that the wind is with us,
10 through God's grace.

11 We need to reach out. We need to stretch. We need
12 to go wider as well as deeper.

13 We need to swim against the current, because that's
14 the way the game is played.

15 We are game fish. We are not rough fish. We are
16 not carp.

17 We are precious fish, and we are valuable, we are
18 ultimately valuable, you're a priceless gift and in your
19 mouth is the keys of the kingdom for others.

20 That's what fishing is all about, and I pray for
21 you, and I trust with grace comes joys and challenge and
22 change.

23 Swim deeply my friends, for remember, you're
24 children of the King. You're free. You're paid for.

25 Live a life of going against the current and live a

1 life of depth and integrity.

2 Would you join me in a moment of prayer?

3 Thanks, gracious God, for the challenge of growth;
4 not just wider, but deeper. When we doubt, Lord, continue
5 to reach out to us and lift us up.

6 Continue to send us out of this place as fishers.
7 It's so cool to hear our kids sing about fishing and us to
8 know that the ancient sign of the Christian was a fish.

9 And so, Lord, may we write your name on our hearts.
10 May we hear your voice of truth to go from this boat now to
11 make a difference.

12 Would you please rock us on the water, remind us
13 that the wind is at our back, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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